

Learning and Working in North Carolina

Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Introduction

Uniquely located among three major research universities, graduate students at the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill receive valuable education both inside and outside the classroom. Through internships, fellowships, and part-time jobs, students learn hands-on about archives and special collections. In addition to significant archival collections at UNC, SILS students also benefit from the close proximity of extensive archives at Duke University and North Carolina State University, both within a thirty mile radius from UNC.

The Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists (SCOSAA) encourages students to get involved in the archival profession through these positions. This poster explains how SILS and SCOSAA help students, and shows what students are learning at several North Carolina archives and special collections.

School of Information and Library Science

The School of Information and Library Science (SILS) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill has been ranked one of the best library schools in the country. With top faculty and talented students, it offers a solid foundation for future archivists and special collections librarians.



Faculty member Helen Tibbo offers many courses on archival topics. In addition, she has advised many students in their research, much of which has been published. And now, just this summer, SILS hired a second faculty member, Cal Lee, who will also be teaching archives courses.

In addition to Tibbo and Lee, adjunct professors Tim Pyatt, Paul Conway, Katherine Wisser, Lynn Holdzkom, and Charles McNamara have also taught courses in everything from archival description to rare books.



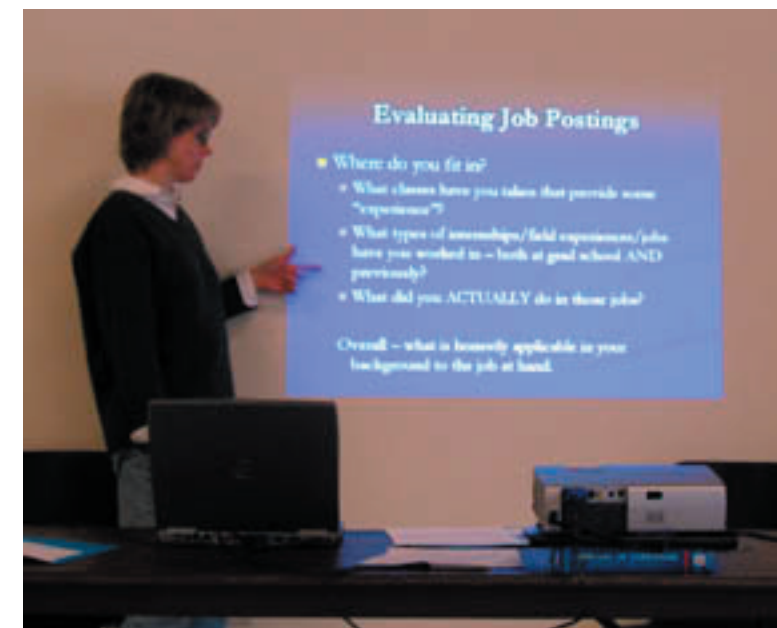
Recent courses include:

- Introduction to Archives and Records Management
- Archival Approaches to Content Management
- Digital Preservation and Access
- Preservation of Library and Archive Materials
- Seminar in Rare Book Collections
- Principles of Archival Description
- Access, Outreach, and Public Service in Cultural Heritage Repositories

Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists

The Student Chapter of the Society of American Archivists (SCOSAA) at SILS is dedicated to connecting students who are interested in archives through programs, speakers, and other events. With support from faculty, staff, and area professionals, SCOSAA has been able to enhance the SILS educational experience.

Last fall, SAA president-elect Richard Pearce-Moses spoke to SILS students and local professionals about his experience writing *The Glossary of Archival and Records Terminology* for SAA. In the spring, SCOSAA offered a “How to Find a Job” workshop in conjunction with the Society of North Carolina Archivists (SNCA). This workshop offered resume, cover letter, and interviewing advice. Later in the spring, SCOSAA members traveled to Fayetteville, North Carolina for the spring meeting of SNCA. In addition to events, SCOSAA has a listserv on which news, announcements, and job opportunities are posted.



SCOSAA is planning to offer more programs and speakers during the upcoming year. With more and more UNC students focusing on archives, special collections, and records management, SCOSAA is increasingly important for enriching the experiences of SILS students. The SCOSAA officers at UNC are: Valerie Gillispie (president), Dean Jeffrey (vice-president), Larry Gavin (treasurer), and Benn Joseph (webmaster).

Southern Historical Collection University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



The Southern Historical Collection (SHC) at UNC is one of the preeminent manuscript collections in the United States, and is believed to be the largest collection of manuscript materials documenting the American South. The collection contains 15 million items in over 5000 collections, including 80,000 photographs, 3,500 oral history interviews, and countless pieces of unpublished family correspondence, diaries, ledgers, scrapbooks, maps, and literary manuscripts. These items document the entire history of the southern United States, from the Revolutionary War era up to the present day. The collections have been used to write some of the seminal works on the history of the American South.

Two SILS alumni work at the SHC in the position of Assistant Curator and Head of Technical Services and Manuscripts Cataloging Librarian (Lynn Holdzkom) and Project Archivist (Nancy Kaiser). Lynn Holdzkom has been using her expertise with EAD to teach a new course in SILS about archival description.

Currently, there are four SILS graduate students working at the SHC. Graduate assistants at the SHC work in technical services processing manuscripts, describing and arranging collections, and writing finding aids that are posted online. Graduate assistants learn preservation strategies and current user-centered theories of archival description. Working at the SHC complements what SILS students learn in class, giving them a unique opportunity to get first-hand experiences with working with collections. Part of that experience involves seeing the realities and compromises archives must face when dealing with limited staff, time, and budget considerations.

A special project for which students provided assistance was the exhibit and reception celebrating the 75th anniversary of the SHC. To commemorate this anniversary, the SHC invited researchers and writers, including Edward Ayres, Glenda Gilmore, Timothy Tyson, who have used the SHC in their work. It was a chance for students to see how an archives can use such an event to gain exposure in the community, appeal to new and previous donors, and enhance its stature within the university.

The Southern Folklife Collection University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

The Southern Folklife Collection (SFC) at UNC is one of the leading archives of American folk music and popular culture. The SFC holdings, which include over 163,000 documents and 18 million feet of motion picture film, are a rich source of research material for students of UNC’s Curriculum in Folklore program, as well as for scholars of southern musical and oral traditions worldwide.

Students at the SILS have the benefit of being able to work in one of the richest audio archives in the nation. For those students who are interested in sound and image archives, an internship or field experience at the SFC is an unparalleled opportunity. And since the SFC is a rapidly growing collection, there are always numerous projects for students who want to jump on board. SILS students Jodi Berkowitz, Jason Casden, and Kirston Johnson are currently involved in projects at the SFC.



The SFC recently received a grant from the Grammy Foundation to preserve and make accessible Sons of the Pioneers and Carter Family 16” transcription discs, a project that has been supported by scholars and musicians nationwide. Kirston Johnson, a SILS student interested in media archives, is currently working on this project.

Working at the SFC prepares SILS students for both the routine and the unexpected events that are likely to occur in their professional careers, providing them with important experiences that supplement their graduate school education. The students also play vital roles in the daily operations of the SFC, providing them with a sense of value and accomplishment early in their archival careers.

University Archives Duke University

The Duke University Archives is responsible for the collection and management of historically valuable records of Duke University. There are close ties between the archives and UNC’s School of Information and Library Science. Tim Pyatt, University Archivist at Duke, teaches courses at SILS as an adjunct professor. Jill Katte, Technical Services Archivist at Duke, is a SILS graduate.



The Duke University Archives also regularly employs an archives intern, usually a SILS student, whose position is funded by the Isobel Craven Drill Endowment for the University Archives. Drill interns process collections, write EAD-encoded finding aids, create MARC records, and answer reference questions. In addition to these expected duties, they are also given the opportunity to arrange displays, create web content, and write articles and brochures.

According to Jill Katte, herself a former Drill intern, the Drill internship is not just about performing work for Duke, it’s also about gaining a practical

knowledge of the archives profession and developing the intern’s career goals. Other former Drill interns include Nancy Thacker, Duke University Archives Staff Assistant, Emily Glenn (also a SILS graduate), Technical Services Coordinator of the Duke University Medical Center Archives, and Valerie Gillispie, SILS student and president of UNC’s SCOSAA. The current Drill intern, Dean Jeffrey, is the vice-president of SCOSAA.

Special Collections Research Center North Carolina State University

Located approximately 30 minutes away from Chapel Hill, the North Carolina State University Libraries’ Special Collections Research Center plays an instrumental role in developing SILS students for professional careers.

The NCSU Libraries Fellows Program develops recent library school graduates for careers in academic libraries. Fellows receive two-year terms as members of the library faculty, combining work on an innovative project with a half-time assignment in a home department. Recent SILS graduate Jaime Margalotti has just completed her first year as a Fellow in the Special Collections Research Center.



The NCSU Libraries also helps to develop current library school students. In February 2005, SILS students Larry Gavin and Dawne Howard became the Special Collections Research Center’s first NCSU Libraries Associates. Dawne and Larry have spent the past six months arranging and describing photographs for the upcoming 4-H “Green ‘N’ Growing” digitization project, and will later process the Animal Rights Network collection.

Many NCSU librarians have also served as SILS adjunct faculty members. Last semester, Lois Fischer Black, the Special Collections Research Center’s assistant head and curator of collections, taught a section of Resource Selection and Evaluation. Being an adjunct faculty member requires lots of time and commitment, and SILS students appreciate having the opportunity to learn from field experts.

Last, but not least, SILS student Terra Kridler spent her summer interning at the Special Collections Research Center for her professional field experience. She learned a lot, and the Special Collections staff appreciated her hard work!

Future Plans

SCOSAA will continue to work with SILS in connecting students to internships, fellowships, and part-time jobs. Through hands-on work experience, students learn the day-to-day responsibilities and realities of working in the archival profession. The opportunity to work in a number of different archival collections, including those on this poster, offers a broad range of experiences with different collections and with a variety of archival professionals.